AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

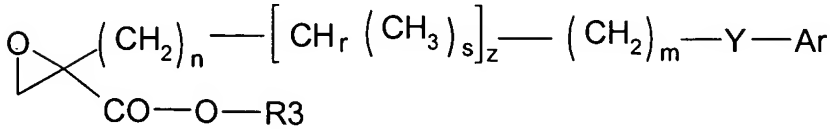
Kindly cancel claims 23-40 and amend claims 3, 9, 11, 13-18, 20, 22, and 42-47.

1. (Original) A method of preventing and/or treating a chronic and/or an atopic skin disease by administering an inhibitor of fatty acid oxidation to a patient in a pharmacologically effective amount.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the patient is human.

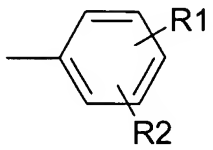
3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the inhibitor inhibits the expression and/or activity of the enzyme Carnitin-Palmitoyl-Transferase-1 (CPT-1).

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the inhibitor is an arylalkyl- or aryloxyalkyl-substituted oxirane carboxylic acid of the following formula I



wherein

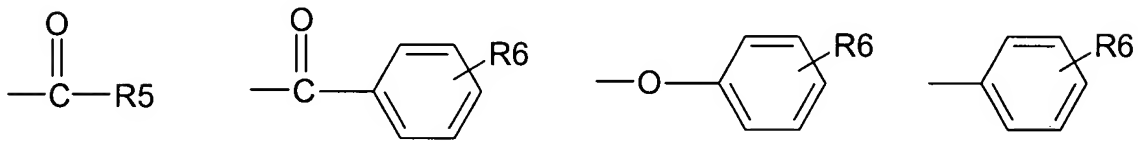
Ar is a substituted phenyl radical



a 1- or 2-naphthyl radical which is substituted by a radical R4, or a heterocyclic radical Het;

R1 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or a 1-4 C lower alkyl group; a 1-4 C lower alkoxy group, a nitro group, or a trifluoromethyl group;

R2 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or a 1-4 C lower alkyl group; a 1-4 C lower alkoxy group, a nitro group, a trifluoromethyl group, a fully or predominantly fluorine-substituted 1-3 C alkoxy group or one of:



R3 is a hydrogen atom or a 1-4 C lower alkyl group;

R4 is a hydrogen atom, a 1-4 C lower alkyl group, an optionally fully or predominantly fluorine-substituted 1-3 C alkoxy group, or a halogen atom;

R5 is a 1-4 C lower alkyl group;

R6 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or a 1-4 C lower alkyl group;

Y is the grouping –O- or $-CH_2-$;

z is 0 or 1

s is 1 or 2

r is 2-s

n and m are an integer ≥ 0 with $2 \leq n+m \leq 8$; and

Het is a heterocyclic ring, which preferably has 5 members and is selected from the group consisting of thiophene, thiazole, isothiazole, pyrrole, and, particularly preferably, pyrazole, and which may carry 1 or 2 identical or different substituents R1;

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts and derivatives of said arylalkyl- or aryloxyalkyl-substituted oxirane carboxylic acid.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said arylalkyl- or aryloxyalkyl-substituted oxirane carboxylic acid of formula I is 2-(6-(4-chlorophenoxy)hexyl)oxirane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (Etomoxir), 2-(6-(4-difluoromethoxyphenoxy)hexyl) oxirane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester, 2-(5-(4-difluoromethoxyphenoxy)pentyl) oxirane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester, or 2-(5-(4-acetylphenoxy)pentyloxirane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the inhibitor is sodium-2(5-(4-chlorophenyl)pentyl-oxirane-2-caboxylate (Clomoxir), Perhexiline, sodium-4-hydroxyphenylglycine (Oxfenicine), or 2-tetradecylglycidate (TDGA), Palmoxirate, Amiodarone and derivatives thereof.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said inhibitor is a factor which increases the Malonyl-CoA-levels in the patient.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said factor is an activator of the Acetyl-CoA-Carboxylase, an inhibitor of the AMP-Kinase, an inhibitor of the Citrat Synthase, an inhibitor of the Fatty Acid Synthase or an inhibitor of the Malonyl-CoA-Decarboxylase.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the expression and/or activity of at least one isoform of a fatty acid binding protein (FABP).

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said at least one isoform of a fatty acid binding protein is psoriasis associated FABP (PA-FABP).

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein said inhibitor is a substance which binds to FABP.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of cis-parinaric acid (cPA), 12-(anthroyloxy)oleic acid (12-AO), or 8-anilino-naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid (ANS).

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the expression and/or activity of Phospholipase A, Lipoproteinlipase, Hormone sensitive Lipase, Monoacylglycerol-Lipase, Acyl-CoA-Synthetase, Canitin-Acylcarnitin-Translocase, Carnitin-Palmitoyl-Transferase-2 (CPT-2), Acyl-CoA-Dehydrogenase, Enoyl-

CoA-Hydratase, L-3-Hydroxyacyl-CoA-Dehydrogenase, and/or 3-Ketoacyl-CoA thiolase (3-KAT).

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said inhibitor is an antisense oligonucleotide or a dominant negative mutant of at least one of the enzymes CPT-1, Acetyl-CoA-Carboxylase, Phospholipase A, Lipoproteinlipase, Hormone sensitive Lipase, Monoacylglycerol-Lipase, Acyl-CoA-Synthetase, Canitin-Acylcarnitin-Translocase, CPT-2, Acyl-CoA-Dehydrogenase, Enoyl-CoA-Hydratase, L-3-Hydroxyacyl-CoA-Dehydrogenase, or 3-Ketoacyl-CoA thiolase (3-KAT).

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said inhibitor is a ribozyme or dsRNA.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the chronic or atopic skin disease is selected from the group comprising psoriasis, cutaneous atopy (e.g. eczema), dermatitis, hand dermatitis, Darrier's disease, Dartroud diathesis, lentigo, xerosis, rosacea, seborrhea, ichthyosis, pigmentation disorders (e.g. hyperpigmentation, melasma, hypopigmentation or vitiligo), actinic keratosis, hyperkeratosis, mycosis fungoides, lichen planus, hyperplasia of the epidermis and other diseases related to inflammatory processes ~~and/or~~ and increased proliferation of skin cells.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said inhibitor is administered topically.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said inhibitor is administered in combination with a further therapy.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said further therapy is selected form the group comprising the topical treatment with coal tar, dithranol, urea, salicylic acid, and/ or Mahonia aquifolium, the systemic treatment with fumaric acid, fumaric acid esters, and/ or blockers of arachidonic acid, e.g. omega-3 fatty acids and the systemic treatment with steroids, especially cortisone, vitamin D or derivatives thereof, vitamin A or derivatives thereof, vitamin B or derivatives thereof, especially vitamin B12, antibiotics, antimycotics, immunomodulators, e.g. methotrexate, cyclosporine, FK506, E-selectin blockers, P-selectin blockers, ICAM blockers, LFA-1 blockers, LFA-2 blockers, LFA-3 blockers, VCAM blockers, and/or TNF blockers, with cytokine inhibitors and/or T-cell activation inhibitors.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is administered together with at least one excipient and/ or auxiliary.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the excipient and/or auxiliary is selected from the group consisting of one or more suitable adjuvant(s), one or more pharmaceutically active and/or acceptable carrier(s), diluent(s), filler(s), binder(s), disintegrant(s),

lubricant(s), glident(s), coloring agent(s), flavoring agent(s), opaquing agent(s) and plasticizer(s).

22. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein the inhibitor is administered topically and preferably said at least one excipient and/ or auxiliary is hydrophobic and is preferably selected from the group comprising petroleum jelly, wax, oleyl alcohol, propylene glycol monostearate, propylene glycol monopalmitostearate, isopropyl laureate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl stearate, ethyl myristate, propyl myristate, butyl myristate, ethyl oleate, Cetylstearyl alcohol, Vaseline, lanolin alcohol or paraffin oil.

23.- 40. Cancelled

41. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for the prophylaxis and/or the treatment of chronic or atopic skin diseases, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises at least one inhibitor of fatty acid oxidation.

42. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 41, wherein the inhibitor ~~is as defined in claims 3 to 15~~ inhibits the expression and/or activity of the enzyme Carnitin-Palmitoyl-Transferase-1 (CPT-1).

43. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 41 ~~or 42,~~ which further comprises at least one excipient and/or auxiliary.

44. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claims~~ claim 41 ~~to 43,~~ wherein said pharmaceutical composition is intended to act topically.

45. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 44, wherein said at least one excipient and/ or auxiliary is ~~as defined in claim 33~~ hydrophobic and selected from the group comprising petroleum jelly, wax, oleyl alcohol, propylene glycol monostearate, propylene glycol monopalmitostearate, isopropyl laureate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl stearate, ethyl myristate, propyl myristate, butyl myristate, ethyl oleate, Cetylstearyl alcohol, Vaseline, lanolin alcohol ~~or~~ and paraffin oil.

46. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claims~~ claim 41 ~~to 45~~, which further comprises at least one additional active ingredient.

47. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 46, wherein the at least one additional active ingredient is ~~as defined in claim 29~~ selected from the group consisting of coal tar, steroids, especially cortisone, vitamin D or derivatives thereof, vitamin A or derivatives thereof, vitamin B or derivatives thereof, dithranol, urea, salicylic acid, Mahonia aquifolium, fumaric acid, fumaric acid esters, blockers of arachidonic acid, e.g. omega-3 fatty acids, antibiotics, antimycotics, immunomodulators, e.g. methotrexate, cyclosporine, FK506, E-selectin blockers, P-selectin blockers, ICAM blockers, LFA-1

blockers, LFA-2 blockers, LFA-3 blockers, VCAM blockers, and/or TNF blockers, with cytokine inhibitors and T-cell activation inhibitors.